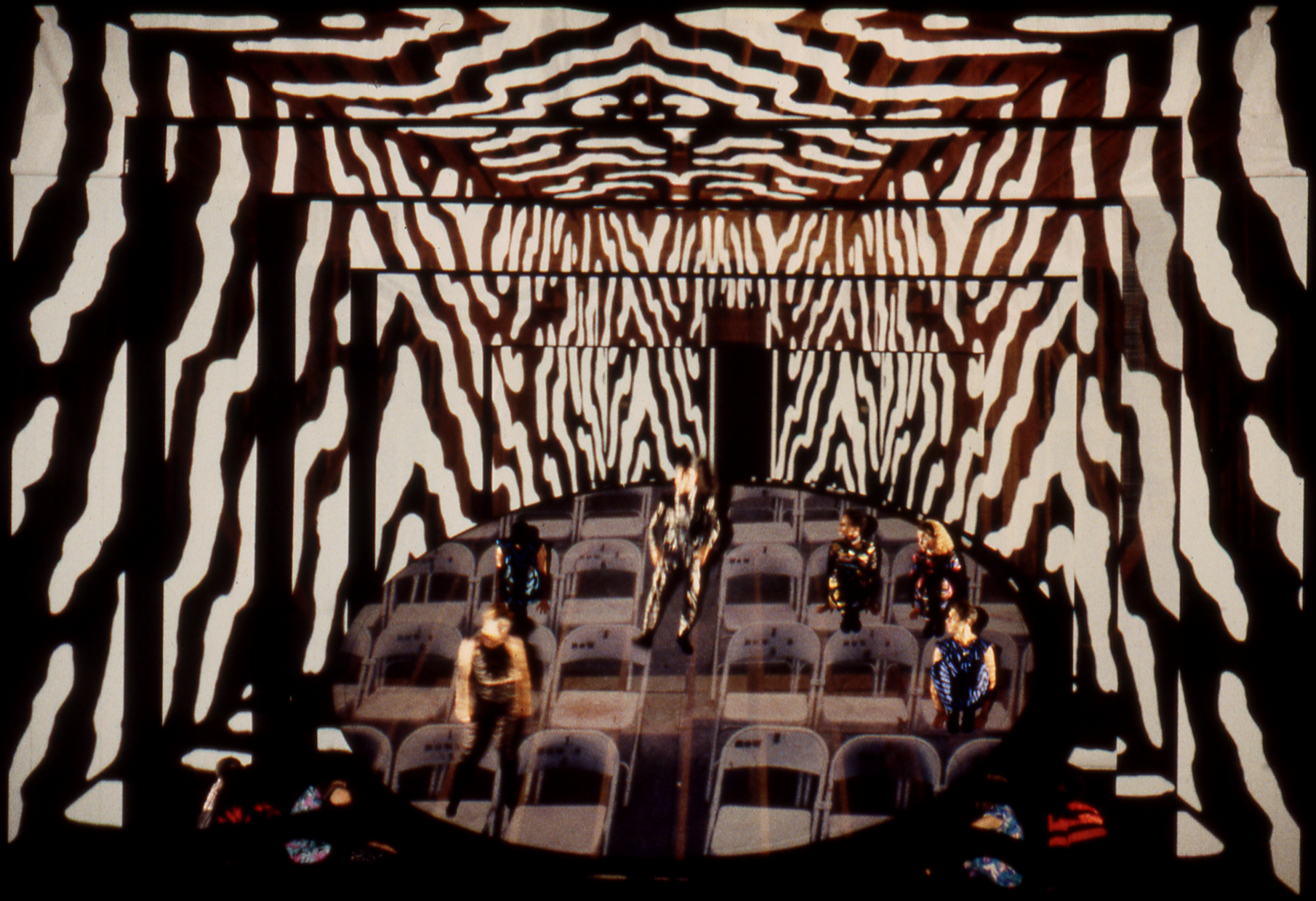

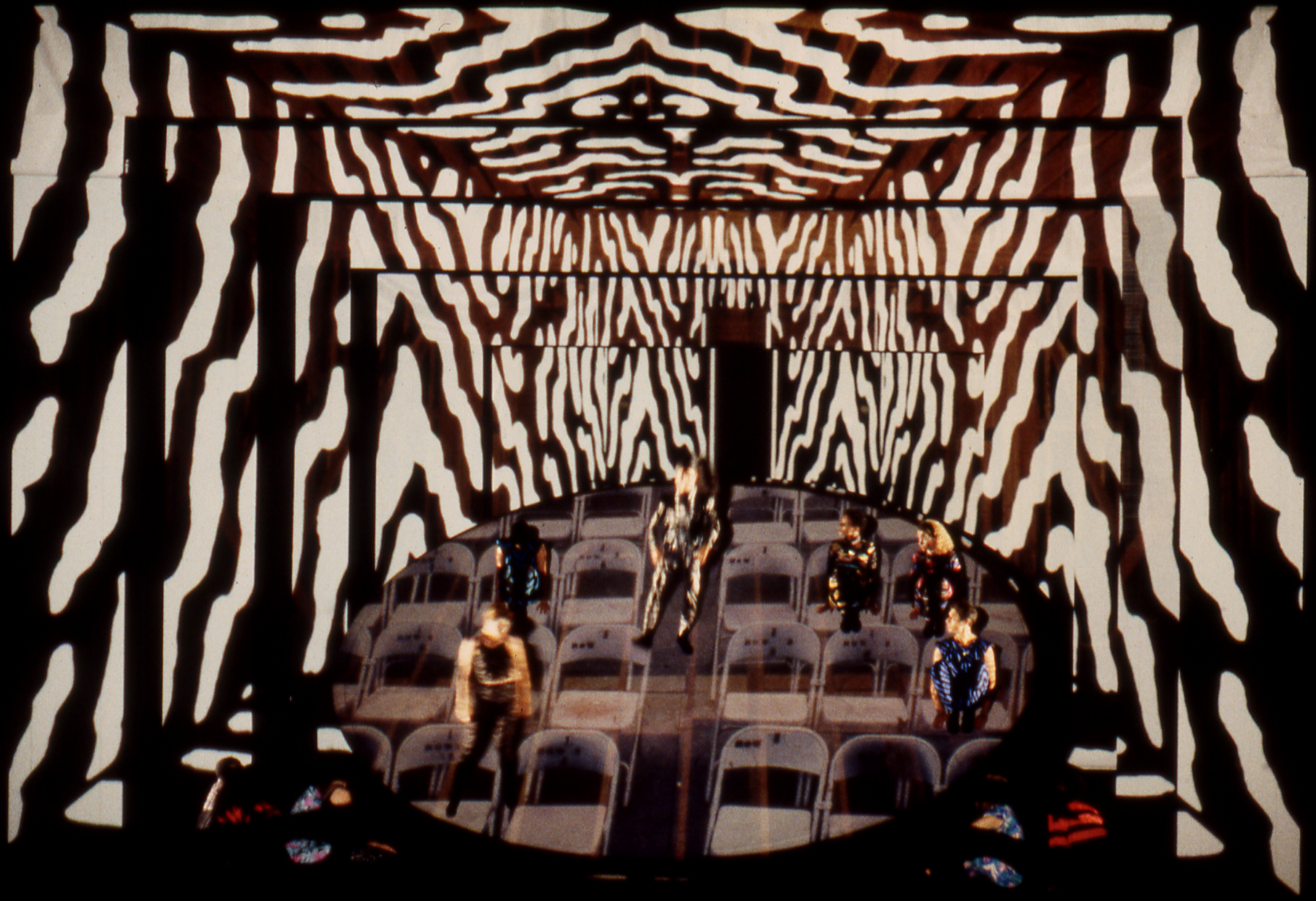

Actual Sho
Transition

Reflections

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This image comes from a brief transitional sequence that was ultimately cut from *Actual Sho*, a production by George Coates Performance Works produced in 1987. There were four or five other slides in this transitional passage that were also tuned out of the performance. It's revealing to see these moments in isolation.

This image was possibly recorded during preview performances at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, prior to the company's European tour. The show continued to evolve through rehearsal and performance, and sequences like this one—while fully realized—were sometimes removed as the structure tightened.

In this final example, if you look closely, you can see the next scene already beginning to fade in. Near the top of the frame, warmer tones emerge and faint wooden beams appear, almost like scaffolding. Those same beams are just beginning to register on the floor as well. The performers already know where to walk—onto those construction beams—heightening an illusion that hasn't fully arrived yet for the audience.

The same cone, the same platform, the same performers—yet, at moments startlingly, through light alone the stage becomes something else entirely. Depth appears where none exists. Architecture forms and dissolves. Light moves, and the world shifts with it.

This sequence is revealing because it is unstable. It shows the production thinking aloud—testing how far perception can be pushed before the magic breaks.